UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,926	02/13/2001	Douglas R. Foster	41992-00405	1667

		EXAMINER
7590	08/13/2004	PHAM, HUNG Q

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/782,926	FOSTER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	HUNG Q PHAM	2172

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 June 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-34* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) *10-26* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9 and 27-34* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *17 September 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
      application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the

fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since

this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee

set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office

action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on

06/01/2004 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 and 27-34 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of

the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g)

prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4.   **Claims 1-3, 5-7, 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over Skarbo et al. [USP 6,317,777 B1] in view of Vermaat [Microsoft

Office 97 Introductory Concepts and Techniques] and Bapat et al. [USP 6,236,996

B1].

Regarding to claims 1 and 27, Skarbo teaches a document-collaboration

videoconferencing system between a first and a second conference attendee (Abstract).

As shown in FIG. 1B, on the server side, under EXTENSION DLL 112 is *a data*

management tier including DATABASE ODBC 114 as *at least one data source*, and

SERVER 100 is *a repository tier including at least one repository server associated with said*

at least one data source (Skarbo, Col. 2, Lines 21-50). The database 114 is used to store

user, document information, and accessed from the extension DLL 112. The database

format can be any format accessible through DLLs, such as Microsoft Access, and SQL

formats (Skarbo, Col. 3, Line 56-Col. 4, Line 4). As seen, by using SQL as *access*

methods native to at least one data source, server 100 is *enabled for accessing* database 114

as *at least one data source*. FIG. 2 is the process of starting and ending a data

collaboration conference (Skarbo, Col. 4, Lines 5-27). As shown in FIG. 3 is the process

of uploading conference material such as a document to a document server (Skarbo,

Col. 4, Lines 28-63) as at least *one document being associable with at least one conference*

accessible to a plurality of participants. Referring back to FIG. 1B, COFERENCE

EQUIPMENT 102 and HTTP ACCESS MODULE 116 (Skarbo, Col. 7, Lines 25-47) is *a*

user interface tier including at least one client tool enabled for displaying the data items

within said at least one data source on a user terminal connectable with said computer

implemented collaboration system, and EXTENSION DLL 112 (Skarbo, Col. 3, Lines 30-

42) is *a service tier including at least one data channel server; at least one data channel*

server providing an interface between repository server and client tool. To login to the

document server, the videoconferencing equipment 102 can request an extension DLL

112, then HTTP data for the browser Presentation Page 198 is returned by the

extension DLL, and includes a list of the user documents stored on the document

server. Before a document is allowed into the presentation file list of files to use during

the conference, the video conferencing software can check to verify that an associated

application exists on the computing device for each file (Skarbo, Col. 7, Lines 48-65). As

seen, the technique of using DLL as *one data channel server* for returning a list of

documents to use during the conference indicates the claimed *at least one data channel*

server associated with said at least one document, said at least one data channel server being

created when said at least one document is associated with said at least one conference.

Skarbo does not explicitly teach the technique of *creating at least one document including*

data items selected from said at least one data source, and *at least one extended property*

associated with each data item within said at least one data source, said at least one extended

property being maintained within said at least one data channel server and available for

displaying by said at least one client tool only with said at least one conference with which said

at least one document is associated. Vermaat teaches *creating at least one document*

including data items selected from said at least one data source by using query and

Microsoft Access (Vermaat, Microsoft Office 97 Introductory Concepts and Techniques).

Bapat teaches user name and operation type to control access to data items of tables in

a relational database (Bapat, Col. 26, Lines 28-50) as *at least one extended property*

associated with each data item within said at least one data source. As taught by Skarbo,

user name is maintained by a DLL as a data channel server (Skarbo, Col. 7, Lines 35-

47), then obviously, operation type could be added for embedding queries to access a

database (Skarbo, Col. 3, Lines 40-42), and depends on the purpose of a conference, a

specified operation type for particular data items could be available to meet the

requirement of a conference, and to create an associated document for that conference,

then display by HTTP ACCESS MODULE 116, or *at least one extended property being*

maintained within said at least one data channel server and available for displaying by said at

least one client tool only with said at least one conference with which said at least one

document is associated. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the Skarbo system by including the

technique of creating a document and permission table as taught by Vermaat and Bapat

in order to control access to a database for a particular conference.

Regarding to claims 2 and 31, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claims 1 and 27, Bapat further discloses *at least one extended property comprises one of a visualization property and a control property for use in displaying the data items with said at least one client tool* (Bapat, Col. 26, Lines 28-50).

Regarding to claim 3, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, Skarbo further discloses *a plurality of client tools enabled for displaying the data items within said at least one data source* (Skarbo, FIGS. 3-4, 8).

Regarding to claims 5 and 28, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claims 1 and 27, Vermat further disclose *a query viewing client tool enabled for use in constructing queries for selecting data from said at least one data source meeting particular criteria* (Vermaat, Microsoft Office 97 Introductory Concepts and Techniques), and Skarbo discloses *a library server providing an interface between said query viewing client application and said at least one repository server* (Skarbo, FIG. 1B).

Regarding to claim 6, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 5, Vermaat further discloses *query viewing client tool is enabled for use in constructing at least one of a standing query and a static query* (Vermaat, Microsoft Office 97 Introductory Concepts and Techniques).

Regarding to claim 7, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the claimed

subject matters as discussed in claim 1, Skarbo further discloses *a conference manager*

client tool enabled for managing communication between multiple user terminals connectable

with said computer implemented collaboration system (Skarbo, Col. 2, Lines 20-40).

Regarding to claim 29, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the claimed

subject matters as discussed in claim 28, Vermaat further discloses *query viewing client*

tool is enabled for use in constructing at least one of a standing query and a static query,

wherein a document representing data items selected as a result of a standing query is updated

when the selected data items change (Vermaat, Microsoft Office 97 Introductory Concepts

and Techniques).

Regarding to claim 30, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the claimed

subject matters as discussed in claim 27, Skarbo further discloses *a conference manager*

client tool enabled for managing communication between multiple user terminals connectable

with said computer implemented collaboration system, each said document being placed

within a conference managed by said at least one conference manager client tool (Skarbo,

Col. 2, Lines 20-50).

5.   Claims 4 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Skarbo et al. [USP 6,317,777 B1] in view of Vermaat [Microsoft

Office 97 Introductory Concepts and Techniques], Bapat et al. [USP 6,236,996 B1]

and Becker [USP 6,301,579 B1].

Regarding to claims 4 and 32, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the

claimed subject matters as discussed in claims 3 and 27, Skarbo further discloses *client*

tools include a list viewer (Skarbo, FIG. 4), but fails to teach *a map viewer, and an X-Y data*

plotter. Becker teaches *a map viewer, and an X-Y data plotter* (Becker, FIG. 5). It would

have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

to include a map viewer and X-Y data plotter as taught by Becker in order to visualize

data for a conference.

6.   **Claims 8 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over Skarbo et al. [USP 6,317,777 B1] in view of Vermaat [Microsoft

Office 97 Introductory Concepts and Techniques], Bapat et al. [USP 6,236,996 B1],

and Driemeyer et al [USP 6,496,190 B1].

Regarding to claims 8 and 33, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the

claimed subject matters as discussed in claims 1 and 27, but fails to disclose *at least one*

extended property is maintained in said at least one data channel server in a directed a-cyclic

graphical form. Driemeyer teaches a computer graphics system and further discloses *at*

least one extended property is maintained in said at least one data channel server in a directed

a-cyclic graphical form (Driemeyer, Col. 3, line 66-Col. 5, line 11). Therefore, it would

have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

to modify the Land system by using directed a-cyclic graphic for maintaining extended

properties such as color, text in order to render an image.

7.   **Claims 9 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over Skarbo et al. [USP 6,317,777 B1] in view of Vermaat [Microsoft

Office 97 Introductory Concepts and Techniques], Bapat et al. [USP 6,236,996 B1],

and Goldberg et al. [USP 6,430,556 B1].

Regarding to claims 9 and 34, Skarbo, Vermaat and Bapat teaches all the

claimed subject matters as discussed in claims 1 and 27, but fails to discloses *at least*

one repository server, said at least one client tool, and said at least one data channel server are

implemented within a CORBA framework. Goldberg teaches CORBA for implementing

query tool (Goldberg, FIG. 4). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to use CORBA to implement query tool in order

to query distributed object over the network.

Conclusion

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q PHAM whose telephone number is 703-605-4242. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Hung Pham
July 27, 2004

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER